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Approved For Release 2005/11/29 : CIA-RDP79R00904A001400010015-2

31 January 1968

**DRAFT
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: The Relation of the CIA-DIA Study of Soviet Reinforcement
Capabilities to Other Pending Commitments**

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1. The initial report of the CIA-DIA Study Group does not address the logistical aspect of the problem of Soviet reinforcement capabilities, but does provide a highly significant preliminary reassessment of Soviet ground forces TOE and peacetime levels of combat readiness. It appears that this reassessment will prove to have important implications with respect to Soviet capabilities and intentions in various contingencies. Further work is required before we can pronounce with reasonable assurance on these points, but it is already apparent that we are moving toward a significantly revised estimate of the strength and capabilities of the Soviet ground forces and of Soviet concepts for their employment.

2. Given the unfinished state of this reassessment, questions arise as to how the matter should be treated in various pending actions to which we are committed. Moreover, the very multiplicity of these commitments appears to have led to some confusion. We therefore think that it would be helpful to set forth below what they are, in the order in which they will come before USIB, and how we propose to proceed in each case.

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3. The Second US Position Paper for MC 161/68 is scheduled for USIB action on 8 February. This paper must contain US comments on the British draft for the Ground Forces Section of MC 161/68. The British draft is out of date, even in terms of NIE 11-14-67, which is itself out of date in terms of the preliminary findings of the CIA-DIA Study. We propose to comment on the basis of NIE 11-14-67, partly because we are unable to discuss the evidence underlying the CIA-DIA Study in a NATO meeting, partly because the implications of the CIA-DIA Study have not yet received mature consideration, and partly because of the CIA-DIA Study itself is not a USIB-coordinated document.

4. The Supplement to NIE 11-14-67. NIE 11-14-67 itself promised a Supplement on Soviet Capabilities Against the Central Region of NATO corresponding to Section VII of NIE 11-14-66. Production of this section was deferred until February 1968, by which time it was expected that the CIA-DIA Study would have been completed. As it happens, the initial report of the CIA-DIA Study Group provides no basis for the promised Supplement, but does require some revision of the extant text of NIE 11-14-67. In the circumstances, we propose to forget the Supplement, and to produce instead a Memorandum to Holders. Such a Memorandum is necessary in order to retract what was said in NIE 11-14-67 that we now consider erroneous (particularly in Conclusion B and in paragraphs 14-15), to say positively as much as we now can say on the basis

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of the initial report of the CIA-DIA Study Group and to promise a more definitive discussion in NIE 11-14-68. We plan to submit such a Memorandum to Holders for USIB consideration on 7 March.

5. NIPP-68, Section III, General Purpose Forces. The completion of this Section of the NIPP has been held up awaiting the completion of the CIA-DIA Study. It should now be completed as soon as possible, since we have a commitment to OSD to complete the entire NIPP in March and Sections V and VI depend in part on Section III. We plan to proceed with NIPP Section III concurrently with our coordination of the Memorandum to Holders.

6. NIE 11-4-68, Soviet Military Policy. This estimate should reflect such inferences with respect to Soviet military policy as we can draw from the continuing CIA-DIA Study. It is now scheduled for April, which would require contributions in March. Because of the time and effort required to complete the NIPP in March, the NIE should be deferred until May or June. We shall reschedule it in the Estimates Program to be submitted in March.

7. NIE 11-14-68, General Purpose Forces. This estimate is now scheduled for August, which means that contributions will be required in July. By then the CIA-DIA Study will have progressed substantially, but will probably still be unfinished. We have considered postponing 11-14, but are deterred by the impact that would have on 11-8, scheduled for September, and 11-3, scheduled for October. We have a commitment to OSD to complete these three

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estimates by mid-November, and experience teaches that with respect to them we must allow some margin for difficulties and shippage. For this reason, we now think that we must adhere to the August schedule. The results of the continuing CIA-DIA Study to that time can then be noted, and a Memorandum to Holders can follow later if significantly different findings are subsequently developed.

8. We suggest that OSR should be commended for its initiative in launching the re-examination from which the CIA-DIA Study has been developed, and that all concerned in that Study should be commended for a promising beginning. The indispensable collaboration of DIA has been beyond expectation, thanks largely to the open-mindedness and willing cooperation of Lt. Col. John A. Barnet, Jr., the co-chairman of the Study Group. At the same time, we think it essential that the Study Group be kept in being in order to carry on the work, for the findings of its initial report are only a good beginning toward a reappraisal that promises to become an intelligence milestone.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

ABBOT SMITH
Chairman

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE 31 Jan 68
TO: Mr. 		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS:		
FROM: Mr. Montague		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

FORM NO. 241
 1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-8
 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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